

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Claims 1-27 (Canceled)

28. (New) An optical information recording method comprising, irradiating an optical information recording medium with a laser beam, forming marks or spaces so that the optical characteristics of a recording film are varied, forming the marks by recording pulses or a recording pulse train in which the power of the laser beam is switched between a plurality of power levels including at least a recording power and erasure power, and recording information at two different linear velocities,

wherein the recording power is controlled so as to satisfy $(P_{p1}/P_{pth1}) < (P_{p2}/P_{pth2})$, where P_{pth1} is the threshold value of the recording power at which the quality of a reproduction signal drops under a specific value when a test signal is recorded at a first linear velocity v_1 with the erasure power fixed and the recording power varied, P_{pth2} is the threshold value of the recording power at which the quality of the reproduction signal drops under a specific value when the test signal is recorded at a second linear velocity v_2 that is higher than the first linear velocity v_1 , with the erasure power fixed and the recording power varied, P_{p1} is the recording power when the information is recorded at the first linear velocity v_1 , and P_{p2} is the recording power when the information is recorded at the second linear velocity v_2 .

29. (New) The optical information recording method according to Claim 28, wherein the criterion for the quality of the reproduction signal is the jitter of the reproduction signal.

30. (New) The optical information recording method according to Claim 28, wherein the criterion for the quality of the reproduction signal is a value based on the error rate of the reproduction signal.

31. (New) The optical information recording method according to Claim 28, wherein the criterion for the quality of the reproduction signal is a value based on the degree of modulation of the reproduction signal.

32. (New) An optical information recording method comprising, irradiating an optical information recording medium with a laser beam, forming marks or spaces so that the optical characteristics of a recording film are varied, forming the marks by recording pulses or a recording pulse train in which the power of the laser beam is switched between a plurality of power levels including at least a recording power and erasure power, and recording information at two different linear velocities,

wherein the recording power is controlled so as to satisfy $(Pp1/Ppth1) < (Pp2/Ppth2)$, where $Ppth1$ is the threshold value of the recording power at which the quality of a reproduction signal drops under a specific value when a test signal is recorded at a first linear velocity $v1$, with the erasure power and the recording power varied such that the ratio between these powers is constant, $Ppth2$ is the threshold value of the recording power at which the quality of the reproduction signal drops under a specific value when the test signal is recorded at a second linear velocity $v2$ that is higher than the first linear velocity $v1$, with the erasure power and the recording power varied such that the ratio between these powers is constant, $Pp1$ is the recording power when the information is recorded at the first linear velocity $v1$, and $Pp2$ is the recording power when the information is recorded at the second linear velocity $v2$.

33. (New) An optical information recording method comprising, irradiating an optical information recording medium with a laser beam, forming marks or spaces so that the optical characteristics of a recording film are varied, forming the marks by recording pulses or a recording pulse train in which the power of the laser beam is switched between a plurality of power levels including at least a recording power and erasure power, and recording information at two different linear velocities,

wherein the recording power is controlled so as to satisfy $a1 < a2$, where $a1$ is the asymmetry of the reproduction signal when a test signal is recorded at a first linear velocity $v1$, with the erasure power fixed and the recording power varied, and $a2$ is the

asymmetry of the reproduction signal when the test signal is recorded at a second linear velocity v_2 that is higher than the first linear velocity v_1 , with the erasure power fixed and the recording power varied.

34. (New) An optical information recording method comprising, irradiating an optical information recording medium with a laser beam, forming marks or spaces so that the optical characteristics of a recording film are varied, forming the marks by recording pulses or a recording pulse train in which the power of the laser beam is switched between a plurality of power levels including at least a recording power and erasure power, and recording information at two different linear velocities,

wherein the recording power is controlled so as to satisfy $a_1 < a_2$, where a_1 is the asymmetry of the reproduction signal when a test signal is recorded at a first linear velocity v_1 , with the erasure power and the recording power varied such that the ratio between these powers is constant, and a_2 is the asymmetry of the reproduction signal when the test signal is recorded at a second linear velocity v_2 that is higher than the first linear velocity v_1 , with the erasure power and the recording power varied such that the ratio between these powers is constant.

35. (New) The optical information recording method according to Claim 28, wherein the recording system is a CAV recording system.

36. (New) The optical information recording method according to Claim 28, wherein the recording power is controlled so that P_p is increased according to the increase in a linear velocity v when P_p is the recording power at the linear velocity v , which is a value between the first linear velocity v_1 and the second linear velocity v_2 .

37. (New) The optical information recording method according to Claim 28, wherein the power level between recording pulses is controlled to be different from the erasure power.

38. (New) The optical information recording method according to Claim 28, wherein the power coefficient between recording pulses at the second linear velocity v_2 is controlled to be higher than the power coefficient between recording pulses at the first linear velocity v_1 when the power coefficient between recording pulses is α and $\alpha = (P_{b_{tm}} - P_b) / (P_p - P_b)$, where P_p is the recording power, P_b is the erasure power, and $P_{b_{tm}}$ is the power level between recording pulses.

39. (New) The optical information recording method according to Claim 33, wherein the recording power is controlled so that P_p is increased according to the increase in a linear velocity v when P_p is the recording power at the linear velocity v , which is a value between the first linear velocity v_1 and the second linear velocity v_2 .

40. (New) The optical information recording method according to Claim 33, wherein the power level between recording pulses is controlled to be different from the erasure power.

41. (New) The optical information recording method according to Claim 33, wherein the power coefficient between recording pulses at the second linear velocity v_2 is controlled to be higher than the power coefficient between recording pulses at the first linear velocity v_1 when the power coefficient between recording pulses is α and $\alpha = (P_{b_{tm}} - P_b) / (P_p - P_b)$, where P_p is the recording power, P_b is the erasure power, and $P_{b_{tm}}$ is the power level between recording pulses.

42. (New) An optical information recording medium with which information is recorded by the method according to Claim 28,

wherein information expressing the value of P_{p1}/P_{pth1} and P_{p2}/P_{pth2} is recorded.

43. (New) An optical information recording medium with which information is recorded by the method according to Claim 32,

wherein information expressing the value of Pp1/Ppth1 and Pp2/Ppth2 is recorded.

44. (New) An optical information recording medium with which information is recorded by the method according to Claim 28,
wherein information expressing the value of Pp1 and Pp2 is recorded.

45. (New) An optical information recording medium with which information is recorded by the method according to Claim 32,
wherein information expressing the value of Pp1 and Pp2 is recorded.

46. (New) An optical information recording medium with which information is recorded by the method according to Claim 33,
wherein information expressing the value of a1 and a2 is recorded.

47. (New) An optical information recording medium with which information is recorded by the method according to Claim 34,
wherein information expressing the value of a1 and a2 is recorded.

48. (New) The optical information recording medium according to Claim 42,
wherein the recording film is composed of a phase changing material, and
the phase changing material contains germanium and tellurium, and also contains either tin or bismuth.

49. (New) The optical information recording medium according to Claim 44,
wherein the recording film is composed of a phase changing material, and
the phase changing material contains germanium and tellurium, and also contains either tin or bismuth.

50. (New) The optical information recording medium according to Claim 46,
wherein the recording film is composed of a phase changing material, and

the phase changing material contains germanium and tellurium, and also contains either tin or bismuth.

51. (New) The optical information recording medium according to Claim 42, having a track divided into a plurality of sectors,
having embossed tracks between the sectors, and
the tracks being formed such that the center of the embossed tracks is shifted from the center of the recording tracks of the sectors.

52. (New) The optical information recording medium according to Claim 44, having a track divided into a plurality of sectors,
having embossed tracks between the sectors, and
the tracks being formed such that the center of the embossed tracks is shifted from the center of the recording tracks of the sectors.

53. (New) The optical information recording medium according to Claim 46, having a track divided into a plurality of sectors,
having embossed tracks between the sectors, and
the tracks being formed such that the center of the embossed tracks is shifted from the center of the recording tracks of the sectors.

54. (New) The optical information recording medium according to Claim 48, having a track divided into a plurality of sectors,
having embossed tracks between the sectors, and
the tracks being formed such that the center of the embossed tracks is shifted from the center of the recording tracks of the sectors.

55. (New) An optical information recording apparatus for irradiating an optical information recording medium with a laser beam, forming marks or spaces so that the optical characteristics of a recording film are varied, forming the marks by recording pulses or a recording pulse train in which the power of the laser beam is switched

between a plurality of power levels including at least a recording power and erasure power, and recording information at two different linear velocities, comprising:

a linear velocity setting circuit for setting two different linear velocities;

a recording pulse generation circuit for generating the recording pulses or the recording pulse train according to the setting result of the linear velocity setting circuit;

a laser drive circuit for irradiating with the laser beam at the plurality of power levels on the basis of the recording pulse train; and

a signal quality detecting circuit for detecting the quality of a reproduction signal,

wherein the laser drive circuit controls the recording power so as to satisfy $(Pp1/Ppth1) < (Pp2/Ppth2)$, where Ppth1 is the threshold value of the recording power at which the quality of a reproduction signal drops under a specific value when a test signal is recorded at a first linear velocity v1 with the erasure power fixed and the recording power varied, Ppth2 is the threshold value of the recording power at which the quality of the reproduction signal drops under a specific value when the test signal is recorded at a second linear velocity v2 that is higher than the first linear velocity v1, with the erasure power fixed and the recording power varied, Pp1 is the recording power when the information is recorded at the first linear velocity v1, and Pp2 is the recording power when the information is recorded at the second linear velocity v2.

56. (New) The optical information recording apparatus according to Claim 55, wherein the signal quality detecting circuit is a jitter detecting circuit that detects jitter in a reproduction signal.

57. (New) The optical information recording apparatus according to Claim 55, wherein the signal quality detecting circuit is an error rate detecting circuit that detects the error rate of a reproduction signal.

58. (New) The optical information recording apparatus according to Claim 55, wherein the signal quality detecting circuit is a modulation detecting circuit that detects the degree of modulation in a reproduction signal.

59. (New) An optical information recording apparatus for irradiating an optical information recording medium with a laser beam, forming marks or spaces so that the optical characteristics of a recording film are varied, forming the marks by recording pulses or a recording pulse train in which the power of the laser beam is switched between a plurality of power levels including at least a recording power and erasure power, and recording information at two different linear velocities, comprising:

a linear velocity setting circuit for setting two different linear velocities;

a recording pulse generation circuit for generating the recording pulses or the recording pulse train according to the setting result of the linear velocity setting circuit;

a laser drive circuit for irradiating with the laser beam at the plurality of power levels on the basis of the recording pulse train; and

a signal quality detecting circuit for detecting the quality of a reproduction signal,

wherein the laser drive circuit controls the recording power so as to satisfy $(Pp1/Pp1h1) < (Pp2/Pp2h2)$, where $Pp1h1$ is the threshold value of the recording power at which the quality of a reproduction signal drops under a specific value when a test signal is recorded at a first linear velocity $v1$, with the erasure power and the recording power varied such that the ratio between these powers is constant, $Pp2h2$ is the threshold value of the recording power at which the quality of the reproduction signal drops under a specific value when the test signal is recorded at a second linear velocity $v2$ that is higher than the first linear velocity $v1$, with the erasure power and the recording power varied such that the ratio between these powers is constant, $Pp1$ is the recording power when the information is recorded at the first linear velocity $v1$, and $Pp2$ is the recording power when the information is recorded at the second linear velocity $v2$.

60. (New) An optical information recording apparatus for irradiating an optical information recording medium with a laser beam, forming marks or spaces so that the optical characteristics of a recording film are varied, forming the marks by recording pulses or a recording pulse train in which the power of the laser beam is switched between a plurality of power levels including at least a recording power and erasure power, and recording information at two different linear velocities, comprising:

a linear velocity setting circuit for setting two different linear velocities;

a recording pulse generation circuit for generating the recording pulses or the recording pulse train according to the setting result of the linear velocity setting circuit;

a laser drive circuit for irradiating with the laser beam at the plurality of power levels on the basis of the recording pulse train; and

a signal quality detecting circuit for detecting the quality of a reproduction signal,

wherein the laser drive circuit controls the recording power so as to satisfy $a1 < a2$, where $a1$ is the asymmetry of the reproduction signal when a test signal is recorded at a first linear velocity $v1$, with the erasure power fixed and the recording power varied, and $a2$ is the asymmetry of the reproduction signal when the test signal is recorded at a second linear velocity $v2$ that is higher than the first linear velocity $v1$, with the erasure power fixed and the recording power varied.

61. (New) An optical information recording apparatus for irradiating an optical information recording medium with a laser beam, forming marks or spaces so that the optical characteristics of a recording film are varied, forming the marks by recording pulses or a recording pulse train in which the power of the laser beam is switched between a plurality of power levels including at least a recording power and erasure power, and recording information at two different linear velocities, comprising:

a linear velocity setting circuit for setting two different linear velocities;

a recording pulse generation circuit for generating the recording pulses or the recording pulse train according to the setting result of the linear velocity setting circuit;

a laser drive circuit for irradiating with the laser beam at the plurality of power levels on the basis of the recording pulse train; and

a signal quality detecting circuit for detecting the quality of a reproduction signal,

wherein the laser drive circuit controls the recording power so as to satisfy $a1 < a2$, where $a1$ is the asymmetry of the reproduction signal when a test signal is recorded at a first linear velocity $v1$, with the erasure power and the recording power varied such that the ratio between these powers is constant, and $a2$ is the asymmetry of the reproduction signal when the test signal is recorded at a second linear velocity $v2$ that is higher than the first linear velocity $v1$, with the erasure power and the recording power varied such that the ratio between these powers is constant.

62. (New) The optical information recording apparatus according to Claim 55, wherein the recording system is a CAV recording system.

63. (New) The optical information recording apparatus according to Claim 55, wherein the recording power is controlled so that P_p is increased according to the increase in a linear velocity v when P_p is the recording power at the linear velocity v , which is a value between the first linear velocity v_1 and the second linear velocity v_2 .

64. (New) The optical information recording apparatus according to Claim 60, wherein the recording power is controlled so that P_p is increased according to the increase in a linear velocity v when P_p is the recording power at the linear velocity v , which is a value between the first linear velocity v_1 and the second linear velocity v_2 .

65. (New) The optical information recording apparatus according to Claim 55, wherein the power level between recording pulses is controlled to be different from the erasure power.

66. (New) The optical information recording apparatus according to Claim 60, wherein the power level between recording pulses is controlled to be different from the erasure power.

67. (New) The optical information recording apparatus according to Claim 55, wherein the power coefficient between recording pulses at the second linear velocity v_2 is controlled to be higher than the power coefficient between recording pulses at the first linear velocity v_1 when the power coefficient between recording pulses is α and $\alpha = (P_{b\text{tm}} - P_b) / (P_p - P_b)$, where P_p is the recording power, P_b is the erasure power, and $P_{b\text{tm}}$ is the power level between recording pulses.

68. (New) The optical information recording apparatus according to Claim 60, wherein the power coefficient between recording pulses at the second linear velocity v_2

is controlled to be higher than the power coefficient between recording pulses at the first linear velocity v_1 when the power coefficient between recording pulses is α and $\alpha = (P_{b\text{tm}} - P_b) / (P_p - P_b)$, where P_p is the recording power, P_b is the erasure power, and $P_{b\text{tm}}$ is the power level between recording pulses.